**THE STORY OF REDEMPTION: Exodus 8:20-9:16**

1. Thinking back on this week’s sermon, was there anything you heard for the first time or that caught your attention, challenged, or confused you?
2. From the sermon, your knowledge, or research, what special significance do each of these plagues have to the Egyptian people because of their religious tradition and beliefs?
3. In 8:20-24, the Lord gives Pharaoh a warning with his request, but Scripture does not record a response by Pharaoh in this case. In general, do you think it is more dangerous for a person to ignore God or to defy Him? Why?
4. In 8:25-27, Pharaoh tries to compromise with Moses but by verse 32 has hardened his heart towards God once more. In our lives today, how can we know that someone is pursuing true repentance as opposed to simply trying to get out of the suffering caused by the consequences of their sin?
5. The plague of insects is the first recorded plague wherein the Hebrews are protected from its effects. Can you think of anywhere else in Scripture where God demonstrates His willingness to protect His people from the judgments of those around them? What can we learn from this?
6. For the plague of boils in 9:8, God instructs Moses and Aaron to use handfuls of soot as instruments of the plague. Why might God have chosen this method, as opposed to a different set of words or actions?
7. Keeping in mind just how devastating these plagues are, what kind or degree of sin deserves more or less than this level of punishment (look at John 19:11, 1 John 5:16, Genesis 18:20, and 1 Corinthians 6:18 for help)? Why?
8. George Alexander Chadwick said, “The drunkard, the murderer himself, is a man who at first did evil as far as he dared, and afterwards dared to do evil which he would once have shuddered at.” What practices can we put in our lives so that we do not end up inching towards sin, hardening our hearts as Pharaoh?